

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LENING 00268 01 OF 02 041443Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----041516Z 022615 /46
R 041358Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3010
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LENINGRAD 0268

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SCUL, ASEC, US, UR
SUBJ: MORE INFORMATION ON LENINGRAD SLOGAN PAINTINGS

REF: LENINGRAD 0257

1. SUMMARY. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTEL) LOCAL SOURCES ARE INDICATING THAT, AFTER AN EXTENSIVE KGB INVESTIGATION, TRIAL OF LENINGRAD SLOGAN PAINTERS IS NOW IMMINENT. COPIES OF TESTIMONY RELATED THESE EVENTS WHICH HAVE COME TO OUR HAND, INDICATE THAT SLOGAN PAINTING INCIDENTS IN LENINGRAD LAST APRIL AND AUGUST WERE MORE EXTENSIVE THAN HAD BEEN KNOWN, AND THE KGB HAS BEEN TOLD THAT PARTICIPANTS WERE ASSISTED IN VARIOUS WAYS BY FOREIGN MISSIONS--INCLUDING EMBASSY MOSCOW--AND BY WESTERN JOURNALISTS. PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT LENINGRAD CONGEN P&C OFFICER, ROBERT K. GEIS, WAS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN TESTIMONY HAVE PROVEN ACCURATE, BUT CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATION, WE HAVE SEEN NO REFERENCE TO MOSCOW CIA INVOLVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE RECEIVED COPIES OF TWO STATEMENTS OF TESTIMONY GIVEN TO KGB SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8, 1976,
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BY LENINGRAD POET GENNADIY TRIFONOV WHICH CONTAIN CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION ON SLOGAN PAINTING INCIDENTS. (TEXTS BEING POUCHED GARRISON EUR/SOV). TRIFONOV IS FORMER DISSIDENT WITH CLOSE TIES TO SLOGAN PAINTERS WHO WAS CO-OPTED BY KGB AND CURRENTLY IS SERVING FIVE YEARS AS HOMOSEXUAL. WHILE HE IS REPORTED TO BE UNSTABLE PERSONALITY WHO TOLD "MORE THAN HE KNEW", (OR PERHAPS THE KGB WROTE HIS "CONVESSIONS")

FOR HIM) WE BELIEVE THAT INFORMATION ON SLOGAN PAINTING PARTICIPANTS AND ACTIVITIES IS ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE. ON OTHER HAND, ALLEGATIONS ABOUT FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT ARE VAGUE AND HAVE DEFINITE HEARSAY QUALITY.

3. TESTIMONY CONTAINS FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON LENINGRAD SLOGAN PAINTING INCIDENTS:

(A) PARTICIPANTS: VLDIMIR BORISOV IS CREDITED WITH INSPIRING AND PARTIALLY ORGANIZING SLOGAN PAINTINGS. MOST IMPORTANT PARTICIPANTS IN APRIL SLOGAN PAINTING INCIDENTS ARE SAID TO BE OLEG VOLKOV, YURIY RYBAKOV, NATALIA LESNICHENKO, AND YULIYA VOZNESENSKAYA, WITH ILYA LEVIN AND TRIFONOV INVOLVED IN PLOTTING CAMPAIGN. AUGUST INCIDENTS ARE SAID TO HAVE INVOLVED ALL OF ABOVE (EXCEPT TRIFONOV) PLUS GENNADIY GUM. THERE ALSO, HOWEVER, ARE A NUMBER OF REFERENCES TO ASSISTANCE BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS IN LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW, AND KGB EFFORT TO MORE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFY THESE PEOPLE IS PROBABLY ONE REASON WHY INVESTIGATION PROCESS HAS CONTINUED FOR SUCH EXTENSIVE PERIOD.

(B) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE: STATEMENT ALLEGES THAT DISSIDENTS WERE GIVEN VARIOUS KINDS OF ASSISTANCE BY FOREIGN MISSIONS AND JOURNALISTS. HOWEVER, ONLY ONE PERSON IS SPECIFICALLY NAMED IN TWO STATEMENTS AT HAND IS CONSULATE GENERAL P&C OFFICER, R.K. GEIS. REFERENCE APPEARS IN TESTIMONY DISCUSSIN AUGUST INCIDENTS FOLLOWING ALLEGATION THAT VOZNESENSKAYA (AKA OKULOVA) MET BEFORE SLOGAN PAINTING INCIDENTS WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED "FOREIGNER" IN MOSCOW AND TOLD HIM OF PLANS FOR ACTIONS. STATE-
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MENT THEN ALLEGES THAT IN EVENT OF REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST PARTICIPANTS FROM SIDE OF SOVIET ORGANS OR FAILURE OF ACTIONS, LEVIN WAS TO PASS INFO TO THE "FOREIGNER" IN "PERSONAL MEETING WITH THE DAUGHTER OF R.K. GEIS, AN EMPLOYEE OF AMERICAN CONSULATE." (PATENTLY FALSE NATURE THIS ALLEGATION IS CLEAR FROM FACT THAT GEIS' DAUGHTER ONLY SEVEN YEARS OLD.) STATEMENT CONTINUES THAT LEVIN ALSO COULD HAVE PASSED INFO THROUGH "FRG CONSULATE." BEFORE LENINGRAD ACTIONS THERE WAS TO BE CALL FROM "THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT" IN MOSCOW. FURTHER STATEMENTS ALLUDE TO:

--LEVIN'S SOLID LONG TERM FRIENDSHIPS WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS AND "EMPLOYEES OF THE AMERICAN AND DUTCH EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW."

--BORISOV, OTHER DISSIDENTS, AND "ESPECIALLY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN AND WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS," BEING "PERPLEXED" THAT THERE WAS NO KGB ACTION FOLLOWING APRIL SLOGAN PAINTING INCIDENTS.

--LEVIN'S ALLEGED VISIT TO AMERICAN AND DUTCH EMBASSIES ON
10 FEBRUARY 1976 TO DISCUSS EMIGRATION AT WHICH TIME TRIFONOV
REPORTEDLY ALSO WAS DISCUSSED.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3011
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 LENINGRAD 0268

EXDIS

--"AMERICANS" BEING HELPFUL IN SETTING UP A MEETING BETWEEN
LEVIN AND MOSCOW DISSIDENTS BERSHTRAM, GERSHUNYA AND BORISOV.

--FACT THAT VOZNESENSKAYA POSSESSED IN ADDITION TO SAMIZDAT
AND LITERATURE BY SOLTZHENITSYN, AMALRIK, AND NABOKOV, "BOOKS
BY BERDYAEV, PUBLISHED IN AMERICA."

--FACT THAT AEROSOL PAINT CONTAINERS USED IN SLOGAN
PAINTINGS WERE OF "NON-SOVIET MANUFACTURE." DESPITE EARLIER
REPORTS WHICH WE HAD, THERE WERE NO REFERENCES, IN TESTIMONY
AVAILABLE TO US, OF ANY MOSCOW CIA INVOLVEMENT WITH SLOGAN
PAINTINGS.

(C) EXTENT OF ACTIVITIES: TESTIMONY INDICATES THAT SLOGAN
PAINTING INCIDENTS WERE WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT LENINGRAD.
APRIL SLOGANS REPORTEDLY WERE PAINTED ON ONE OF ROSTRAL COLUMNS
ON VASIL'YEVSKIY ISLAND; PARAPET OF VASIL'YEVSKIY ISLAND; IN
GORKY GARDENS (BY THE ADMIRALTY); ON LENINGRAD CONSERVATORY;
ON TEGAVTA INSTITUTE (NEAR KIROV THEATER); AND ON DORMITORY
OF INSTITUTE ON GRIBOYEDOV CANAL. AUGUST 3 SLOGAN
PAINTINGS OCCURRED ON WALL OF PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS FACING
NEVA (SLOGAN: YOU ARE CRUCIFYING FREEDOM, BUT THE SOUL OF THE
PEOPLE KNOWS NO BETTERS). ON AUGUST 4 AND 5 ANTI-SOVIET
SLOGANS WERE PLACED AT VARIOUS PUBLIC PLACES THROUGHOUT
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LENINGRAD. THESE INCLUDED: PARAPET OF NEVA EMBANKMENT ACROSS FROM LENING MUSEUM (SLOGAN: USSR--PRISON OF THE PEOPLE AND CPSU--ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE); INSCRIPTION ON BUS (SLOGAN: FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS, AND ASSEMBLY); ON PARAPET OF ARCHWAY ON CORNER OF SADOVAYA STREET AND NEVSKY PROSPECT--ONE OF MAIN INTERSECTIONS IN LENINGRAD (SLOGAN: FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS); ON SHOP WINDOW AT GOSTINY DVOR, LENINGRAD'S LEADING DEPARTMENT STORE; ON TAURIDE PALACE (SLOGANS: DOWN WITH THE PARTY BUREAUCRATIC BOURGEOISIE AND THE PARTY IS THE ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE). FURTHER SLOGANS WERE TO BE PAINTED ON COLUMNS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE AVENUE LEADING TO SMOL'NY BUILDINGS (ROMANOV'S HEADQUARTERS) BUT ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT AND WERE TO BE POSTPONED TO 60TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR. TESTIMONY CONTAINS NO REFERENCES TO SLOGAN, LISTEN TO VOICE OF AMERICA, WHICH WAS WIDELY REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SEEN AT TIME OF SLOGAN PAINTINGS.

4. COMMENT: ALL INDICATIONS AT THIS POINT ARE THAT SLOGAN PAINTING TRIAL WILL BE CLOSED. WE DOUBT THAT ROMANOV WOULD WISH TO PRECIPITATE YET FURTHER WESTERN CHARGES OF SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY PUBLIC SHOW TRIAL OF THESE POLITICAL DISSIDENTS AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY THAT RELATING TO ALLEGED ASSISTANCE OF LENINGRAD DISSIDENTS BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS, IS IN LINE WITH CURRENT PATTERN OF SOVIET CHARGES THAT "ILLEGITIMATE" TIES ARE BEING NURTURED WITH ANTI-SOVIET ELEMENTS. SHOULD SOVIETS FEEL COMPELLED TO RAISE LEVEL OF THIS COUNTERATTACKS ON WESTERN CHARGES OF SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, THESE ALLEGATIONS CONCEIVABLY COULD SURFACE IN SOME MANNER OR OTHER.

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Message Attributes

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